

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

DLOS-06 SAL-01 IO-13 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /091 W

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R 301247Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3990

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6050

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ELAB TS LY

SUBJECT: SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MOHAMED ENNACEUR TO
HEAD GOT DELEGATION TO LIBYAN NATIONAL DAY
CEREMONIES

1. GOT ANNOUNCED IN AUGUST 29 PARESS THAT SOCIAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER MOHAMED ENNACEUR WILL HEAD ITS DELEGATION TO
TRIPOLI FOR CELEBRATION OF LIBYA'S SEPTEMBER 1 REVOLU-
TION ANNIVERSARY. ANNOUNCEMENT MADE IN ARTICLE REPORTING
ON INTERVIEW BETWEEN ENNACEUR AND PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
IN WHICH THEY DISCUSSED STATUS OF TUNISIAN WORKERS IN
FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE SAME ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO REPORTED
A MEETING BETWEEN GOT HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO LARG
MAHMOUD CHARCHOUR AND BOURGUIBA, ALTHOUGH NO FURTHER
DETAILS WERE GIVEN.

2. ENNACEUR IS NOT NORMALLY TAPPED FOR THIS KIND OF
SERVICE AND HIS SELECTION SUGGESTS THAT GOT PLANS TO
USE HIS VISIT IN TRIPOLI TO CALL ATTENTION TO EXPULSION
OF OVER 14,000 TUNISIAN WORKERS FROM LIBYA SINCE MARCH
OF THIS YEAR. ENNACEUR COULD WELL HAVE BEEN CHARGED
WITH LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBLE RETURN TO LARG OF
ALL OR SOME OF THESE WORKERS, WHO HAVE FOR THE MOST PART
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NOT FOUND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT IN TUNISIA, AND ON THE

STATUS OF THE ESTIMATED 30,000 TUNISIAN WHO REMAIN IN LIBYA.

3. THE QUESTION OF QUOTE TUNISIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA UNQUOTE WAS CITED IN THE TUNISIAN PRESS, FOLLOWING THE RECENT ACCORD ON SUBMITTING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE TO THE ICJ, AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHICH REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED.

4. APART FROM THE FACT THAT LIBYA MAY HAVE HAD NO FURTHER NEED FOR THESE LARGELY SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR EXPULSION, WE JUDGED THAT QUADHAFI ALSO SOUGHT TO DISRUPT THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY WITH THE INJECTION OF THIS LARGE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED AND UNSKILLED TUNSIANS. IF ENNACEUR IS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING LARG COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT SOME BACK, THIS COULD INDICATE SERIOUS INTENT BY LIBYANS TO RETURN BILATERAL RELATIONS TO MTHE MORE CORRECT LEVEL THAT EXISTED BEFORE THE LARG AUTHORED ASSISSINATION PLOT AGAINST GOT PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOURIA IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.
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